

# MOBILE COUNTY CONSORTIUM

## AMENDMENT TO 2010 - 2014 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The *Mobile County Consortium 2010-2014 Five-Year Consolidated Plan (Consolidated Plan)* has a strong emphasis on the importance of ensuring continuing availability of affordable housing for households with broad ranges of income levels and varied needs. Under the Plan, a high priority is placed on activities that will support or enable households to remain in affordable housing including rental housing or that would foster access to affordable housing. *Consolidated Plan* priorities address housing needs for homeowners, renters, the homeless or near homeless, and those with special needs. There is focus on preserving affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families.

The broader goals expressed in the *Consolidated Plan* establish the Mobile County Consortium's non-housing community development needs. CDBG non-housing need categories include: economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, public services and planning.

The *Consolidated Plan* states that the Consortium sees the priorities related to homeless activities as: assisting service providers to more efficiently deliver the services needed by the homeless population and undertaking activities to aid in the prevention of homelessness.

The County is amending the *Consolidated Plan* to reflect changes to the Community Development section and updates the Homeless section as follows:

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### **Community Development (91.215 (e)) page 88**

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Consolidated Plan is amended to include direct homeownership assistance in the form of rehab of single-unit residential homes in conjunction with water and sewer improvements. (CDBG)

### **Homeless Needs (91.205 (b) and 91.215 (c)) page 72**

#### NATURE AND EXTENT OF HOMELESSNESS

Housing First, Inc., an Alabama nonprofit corporation, serves as the lead organization for the Continuum of Care for the Homeless, CoC AL501 that serves the City and County of Mobile and Baldwin County. The CoC was formed in 1995 by an informal group of Mobile businesses and churches to address homelessness as a serious issue that impacts human services and economic development. Mobile County contracts with Housing First, Inc. to conduct the CoC process required by HUD for receiving federal funding of projects that serve and house homeless citizens. The general membership of the CoC is open to agencies, churches and government agencies that are concerned about homelessness and the plight of those who are homeless. A CoC board composed of community leaders, government officials, representatives of the faith community, the homeless and formerly homeless citizens provides direction for the year-round CoC process. Ongoing activities are conducted for assessing the status and impact of homelessness and for developing strategies to respond. Many projects, with the support of federal grants, are sponsored through the CoC with goals for reducing and eventually ending homelessness.

The homeless population and the providers of shelter and services for the homeless are located within the City of Mobile. While the City of Mobile is outside of the Urban County jurisdiction, a recent study of the needs of homeless persons confirmed the presence of homeless persons in Mobile County who come to the shelters and service centers within the City. The 2012 Mobile County Point-in-Time Count (PIT) estimated that 31.1% of the homeless were from the Mobile County Consortium jurisdiction. The 2013 PIT is not available at this time.

After conferring with the HUD Field Office, the County plans to provide 2013 CDBG funds toward construction of a homeless facility located within the City of Mobile to provide services to Mobile County's homeless population. The project includes construction of a 100-bed shelter, construction of a day center, and construction of a medical facility. This project addresses Goal 11 of the *2005 Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties*.

The *2005 Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties* follows:

### **Homeless Strategic Plan (91.215 (c)) page 83**

#### **2005 Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties**

**Goal 1: Conduct more intensive and better coordinated street outreach**  
Status: implemented.

- Goal 2: Develop and implement protocol for early identification, assessment, and intervention for the chronic homeless in shelter facilities.**  
Status: implemented.
- Goal 3: Actively engage law enforcement agencies in the plan to end chronic homelessness.**  
Status: implemented. New round of police training needed.
- Goal 4: Develop and implement protocol for early identification, assessment, intervention and discharge for the chronic homeless who are incarcerated.**  
Status: implemented but not adequate. The Mobile Area Interfaith Conference has set a goal for opening a Community Release Center on 2012.
- Goal 5: Obtain Memoranda of Understandings regarding discharge procedures that result in homelessness.**  
Status: implemented and updated annually.
- Goal 6: Provide additional permanent housing for the chronic homeless.**  
Status: implemented. The number of units for the chronic homeless has increased each year starting in 2006.
- Goal 7: Build the service infrastructure needed to maintain the chronic homeless in housing.**  
Status: implemented. Housing First obtained a HHS SAMHSA grant for an ACT Team, implemented in 2009, that provides mental health and addiction treatment to help the chronic homeless retain housing.
- Goal 8: Develop a case management manual and service directory that facilitate intervention services for the chronic homeless.**  
Status: implemented but not effective. Annual case management workshops have proven to be more effective.
- Goal 9: Emphasize reunification of families as a primary strategy for ending chronic homelessness.**  
Status: implemented. This appears to be a natural outcome of housing placement for the chronic homeless after improvements occur in their behaviors and appearance.
- Goal 10: Assess and upgrade research and data collection systems and methods to ensure an accurate count and understanding of chronic homelessness.**  
Status: implemented. Significant progress has been achieved with utilization of the HUD required Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as a tool for accountability, improving case management services and documenting outcomes.
- Goal 11: To prevent chronic homelessness, develop a comprehensive opportunity center.**  
Status: not implemented as envisioned. The Waterfront Rescue Mission, 15 Place and the City of Mobile are collaborating on a plan for building a new intervention center for homeless citizens in close proximity to downtown Mobile.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

A copy of the Substantial Amendment to the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan (Plan) will be available for public inspection at various locations within the County beginning on March 8, 2013 at the following locations: Mobile County Commission 205 Government Street. City Halls in: Bayou La Batre, Chickasaw, Citronelle, Creola, Mount Vernon, Prichard, Saraland, Satsuma, and Semmes. Public Libraries in: Chickasaw, Citronelle, Mount Vernon, Saraland, Bayou La Batre, Prichard, Semmes and Satsuma. The Plan is also available on the County's website at [www.mobilecountyal.gov](http://www.mobilecountyal.gov).

A 30-day comment period, which ends on April 8, 2013, is required prior to the adoption of the Plan on April 9, 2013 by the Mobile County Commission and submission to HUD. Comments or suggestions concerning the Substantial Amendment to the 2010-2014 Five-Year Consolidated Plan are to be submitted in writing by 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2013 to Mr. John Pafenbach, County Administrator, Mobile County Commission, P. O. Box 1443, Mobile, AL 36633. For further information contact the Grants Department at (251) 574-8099. Spanish translation and/or clarification will be provided upon request. Please call Cathy Burden at (251) 574-8099. La traducción y/o la clarificación Española serán dados si hay solicitud. Llame por favor Cathy Burden (251) 574-8099.

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Public Hearings: All public hearings are held on the ground floor of Mobile Government Plaza at 205 Government Street in Mobile, Alabama. The public hearings are accessible to all people in attendance. If you have a disability, which might require special materials or assistance for the public hearing, please notify the County at (251) 574-8099 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

As published on February 27, 2013, the first public hearing will be held March 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the multi-purpose room. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2013 Action Plan and Substantial Amendment to the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and to start the 30-day public comment period which ends on April 8, 2013. The second public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 9, 2013 in the auditorium before the Mobile County Commission adopts the 2013 Action Plan and Substantial Amendment to the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and submits the Plans to HUD. Citizen participation concerning the proposed Plans is encouraged.